

THOMAS MORROW

Pioneer of Alabama and Texas

by

David C. Morrow
P. O. B. 72181
Corpus Christi,
Texas 78472

CORPUS CHRISTI PUBLIC LIBRARIES

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In writing this biography of my ancestor, who is the ancestor of a great many persons bearing the Morrow surname, I am indebted to a number of persons. First to Thomas Morrow's daughter Hannah Eliza Morrow Taylor, who some time during the last century collected and handed on the history of our branch of the Morrow family. Second, to her great - niece and my cousin, Mrs. O. E. (Loia Alma Morrow) Henderson of Palestine, Texas, to whom these records passed and who continued to record the history of Thomas Morrow's descendants through his son, Rev. Robert Richardson Morrow.

Mrs. T. K. (Sara) Blalock of Memphis, Tennessee; Mr. Jack D. Hunnicutt of Jacksonville, Florida; and Ms. Josephine Perry of the Alabama State Department of Archives and History have all provided me with valuable information.

To Mrs. J. F. Neel, of Palestine, Texas I am indebted for her help in locating records in that city while I have been unable to travel there due to considerations of time and economics.

Finally, but absolutely not least, I am indebted to Morrow family historian Dr. J. T. Morrow of San Angelo, whose history of the Morrow family (1961 and 1979) is an invaluable source.

David C. Morrow
27 May, 1989

CONTENTS

Acknowledgements.....	i
Contents.....	ii
Thomas Morrow.....	1
Notes.....	9
Index.....	11

THOMAS MORROW

Thomas Morrow, the fifth and last child of Robert Morrow (30 July, 1752 - 1823)⁴ and Jane Peden Morton Morrow (1740 - 1830) was born 29 September, 1785 in Greenville County, South Carolina. The Morrows had settled there around 1775² from Virginia or Maryland.

Robert Morrow served in the American Revolution³ and Dr. J. T. Morrow relates that several battles of the Revolution took place near the Morrow home, which was finished in 1787, the last year of the War. Thomas Morrow was thus born during the War and perhaps not far from scenes of conflict.

According to Mrs. Henderson⁴ Thomas Morrow had three brothers and one sister by his mother; Jane Peden Morton Morrow also had children by her previous marriage to the deceased Mr. Morton.⁵ The birth dates of Thomas' full siblings, all of whom were born in Greenville, South Carolina are given by Mrs. Henderson and Dr. Morrow as:

Samuel Morrow - 8 November, 1775

William Morrow - 5 November, 1777

Twins,

David Morrow - 23 March, 1783

Mary Morrow - 23 March, 1783

Nothing can be known of Thomas Morrow's education or very early life. His father was a farmer, and he followed this occupation.^s In the family tradition, he began life as a Presbyterian⁷ and was certainly a member of the Fairview Presbyterian Church in Greenville, South Carolina of which his father, Robert, was a Ruling Elder during the early 1800s.^s

On 20 March, 1810 according to all sources, Thomas Morrow married Hannah Richardson. Hanna's father may have been Amos Richardson of Greenville, South Carolina,^s but her mother's name and her date of birth do not show in any of my records. Records agree that the first four of Thomas' and Hannah's children were born in Greenville, South Carolina and the fifth in Morgan County, Alabama. These children were, by dates supplied by Mrs. Henderson:

Mary Morrow (28 October, 1811 - 9 May,
1878)

Sarah Morrow (2 November, 1812 -
30 January, 1878)

Jane P. [Peden?] Morrow (24 February,
1814 -)

Robert Richardson Morrow [Sr.]

(23 January, 1816 - 17 June, 1900)

Martha E. Morrow (7 March, 1820 -
1900)

No evidence has come to me that Thomas Morrow took part in the War of 1812 or the Indian Wars of the Southeast.

The Morrow family began to leave its South Carolina home during the early 1800s, and J. T. Morrow believes some of them settled in Alabama (then Mississippi Territory) before 1810.. Thomas and his brother Samuel made inquiries at the Government Office in Nashville in 1805, and grants were issued them which they never occupied.¹⁰ Dr. Morrow states that this was because the grants were in "that area of highly controversial surveys reaching all the way to the Mississippi River..."¹¹

All of my sources agree that Thomas, along with his family, his parents Robert and Jane Morrow, and many other relatives left Greenville, South Carolina in the Spring of 1817 to settle in Morgan County, Alabama. Thomas' brother, William Morrow, who married a Jane Reid, remained behind and later emmigrated to Tennessee.¹² Dr. Morrow quotes records of the Fairview Presbyterian Church recounting the Morrows' exodus in 1817.¹³ The Land Office, moved to Huntsville, Alabama, was the Morrows' first destination.¹⁴

On page forty - one of The Morrrows and Related Families Dr. Morrow describes the family home in Morgan County. The Morrow house stood about six miles from Somerville, Alabama and was called "Six Mile" or "Beech Grove." The original log house was protected from weather and possible Indian raids by hills, and was moved from an original site which was infested with rattlesnakes. After a couple of decades of occupation, Dr. Morrow writes, there were probably numerous buildings, and the rebuilt house had at least two stories.

Robert Morrow died in 1823, according to Dr. Morrow in August because his will was probated in Morgan County on 29 September of that year.¹⁵ He remarks that the estate was left undivided and a final settlement made after Jane Peden Morton Morrow died, which he believes to have happened in January, 1830.¹⁶

Mrs. T. K. (Sara) Blalock, of Memphis Tennessee, cites a record of Robert Morrow's estate from Orphan's Court of Decatur, Alabama to the effect that Thomas received title to a tract of land in Greenville, South Cartolina, held by Robert Morrow, and allowed \$ 100.00 "for taking care of Robt. Morrow's wife" for a time undecipherable in the records.¹⁷ Apparently Thomas still held, for how long is unknown, lands in South Carolina, and took care of her mother until her death.

Hannah Richardson Morrow died 19 February, 1838 in Morgan County.¹⁸ Both Dr. Morrow and Mrs. Henderson state that Thomas married Rachel Milligan on 5 January, 1839. She was born in Tennessee on 27 March, 1805 according to Mrs. Henderson's records and on 25 March, 1805 according to Mr. Hunnicutt. Her mother's name is given as Rebecca by both and appears in the Census of 1850 in the household of Thomas (who was sixty - five years old and owned 200 acres), being herself then seventy - five years old.

Mrs. Henderson lists the children Rachel Milligan bore Thomas Morrow, all of whom were born in Morgan County, Alabama, as:

William J. Morrow (23 December, 1839 -
16 February, 1911)

Rebecka Ann Morrow (29 November, 1840 -
-)

Samuel Alexander Pendleton Morrow
(27 January, 1843 - 9 April, 1886)

Synthia Elizabeth Morrow (1 October,
1845 -)

David J. Morrow (29 October, 1847 -)

Hannah Eliza Morrow (14 January, 1849 -
14 September, 1922)

Thomas' daughter, Hannah Eliza, who married a man named W. M. Taylor on 20 March, 1882, collected the

history of Thomas' branch of the family back to the Seventeenth Century, as it had come down to her, and handed her records to her great - niece and Thomas' great - granddaughter, Loia Alma Morrow Henderson. This material is one basis for studies of the Morrow family.

At some point in Thomas Morrow's life, I would guess in Alabama, he or at least his children converted from the Presbyterian to the Baptist faith. My opinion is based on the fact that his son, my grandfather's grandfather, Rev. Robert Richardson Morrow, Sr., was a Baptist minister who established many churches in Anderson and other East Texas counties. Three of his sons, in turn, were Baptist ministers, J. M. P. Morrow, William I. Morrow (father of Mrs. Henderson), and my great - grandfather, Rev. Robert Richardson Morrow, Jr.¹⁹

By the end of the 1840s the Thomas Morrow family had decided to emigrate again. "I believe I heard my Father say," wrote Mrs. Henderson, "that my great grandfather [Thomas Morrow], and grandfather [Robert Richardson Morrow, Sr.] came to Tex because they could take up grants of land here for either 50¢ or \$1.00 per acre. My grandfather R. R. Sr. took up enough for all his children a good farm apiece, they all lived with farms joining each other as they married."²⁰

It is apparent that Thomas' son, Robert, was by

then the head of this branch of the Morrow clan, who must have so outgrown their Alabama holdings that they no longer had enough farmland. Many Morrows remained behind in Alabama, where they are abundant today, and why the now elderly Thomas was again willing to uproot and start over cannot be known. Perhaps he was a natural born pioneer, and he certainly returned to farming on his own as the Census to be cited below shows.

According to Mrs. Henderson, the Morrows settled at Elmwood, in Anderson County. That they arrived in December, 1850 is clear from the fact that Dr. Morrow notes that the birth of Thomas' grandson, William Irwin Morrow, on 4 March, 1851 took place "just four months after the family had arrived in Anderson County, Texas."²¹ Robert R. Morrow, Sr., who with a couple of brothers is likely to have come to Texas first and arranged the land grants, founded in 1854 the Pisgah Baptist Church at Brushy Creek,²² where the new Morrow Cemetery was established.²³

Dr. Morrow believes that Thomas Morrow died in 1852 or 1853, most likely the latter. On what evidence he bases this I do not know; Mrs. Henderson does not give a date for Thomas Morrow's death. Although he is buried at Brushy Creek, his marker long ago vanished, and unless it has been restored since my last visit in 1965, Thomas lies

unmarked and in an unknown spot.

Thomas Morrow did not die in 1853, however, and there is evidence of this beyond the fact that his burial site was not consecrated until the year following that of his supposed death. During the course of my research I employed Mrs. J. F. Neel of Palestine, Texas to examine family records in Anderson and adjacent counties, and as a matter of course she went through the Census rolls.

The 1860 Census shows Thomas Morrow, age seventy - five, as a farmer on his own land. His wife is Rachel Milligan Morrow, age forty - five (she should have been fifty - five, but perhaps she subtracted the ten years!) Children are William, 21; Pendleton, 18; E. A., 11. The names of the children and their ages, as well as Thomas' age, leave no doubt but that this is Thomas Morrow and his family, "E. A." being Hannah Eliza, who would have to have been eleven that year.

If Thomas died in a year ending in a 3, perhaps by some tradition that has not reached me, then it would have been 1863. He does not appear in the Census of 1870.

Rachel Milligan Morrow died 1 November, 1870 according to Mrs. Henderson's records, and she, too, lies at Brushy Creek. No will belonging to either has turned up in my research to this time.

NOTE:

Thomas Morrow died in Anderson
County, Texas on 2 March 1870.

NOTES

1. Mrs. Henderson gives his birthdate as 30 July, 1752; according to Dr. J. T. Morrow he was born sometime in 1734. Both agree that he died in 1823, as his will exists. Mrs. Henderson does not mention Jane Peden Morton Morrow. The confusion arises from a question in Morrow genealogy regarding the names Samuel and Robert that is not directly relevant to Thomas' biography. I am herein following Dr. Morrow's reconstruction of Robert Morrow's family.

2. Morrow, Dr. J. T. The Morrrows and Related Families. Baltimore, Maryland: Gateway Press; 1979. Page 26.

3. Ibid. Page 26.

4. Letter to writer from Mrs. Henderson, dated 14 November, 1965.

5. Morrow, Op. Cit. Pages 27 - 34.

6. Nearly all were farmers until the early 1900s.

7. Traditions of this branch of the Morrrows seem to show that they were Presbyterians who came from Northern Ireland or southwestern Scotland following the Test Act of 1704 and settled in Maryland and Virginia.

8. Morrow, Op. Cit. Page 26.

9. Letter to writer from Jack D. Hunnicutt, dated 20 December, 1964.

10. Morrow, Op. Cit. Page 34.

11. Ibid. Page 34.

12. Ibid. Pages 39, 177 - 187.

13. Ibid. Page 25.

14. Ibid. Page 38.
15. Ibid. Page 26.
16. Ibid. Page 26.
17. Letter to writer from Mrs. Sara D. Blalock dated 9 November, 1966.
18. Morrow, Op. Cit. Page 188.
19. The majority of Thomas Morrow's descendants seem to have remained Baptist.
20. Letter to writer from Mrs. Henderson, dated 25 February, 1965.
21. Morrow, Op. Cit. Page 196.
22. Letter to writer from Mrs. Henderson, dated 22 November, 1964.
23. The Morgan County, Alabama Morrow Cemetary is now a State Historical Monument.

INDEX

A

Alabama: i,2,3,4,5,6,7,10.
Alabama State Department of Archives and
History: i.
American Revolution: 1.
Anderson County, Texas: 6,7,8.

B

Baptist faith: 6,10.
Beech Grove, Alabama: 4.
Blalock, Mrs. T. K. (Sara): i,2,4,6,10.
Brushy Creek, Texas: 7.

C

Census of 1850: 5.
of 1860: 7,8.
of 1870: 8.
Controversy over Robert and Samuel: 9.

D

Decatur, Alabama: 4.

E

Elmwood, Texas: 7.

F

Fairview Presbyterian Church: 2,3.
Florida: i.

G

Greenville, South Carolina: 1,2,3,4.

H

Henderson, Mrs. O. E. (Loia Alma Morrow): i,1,2,3,
4,6,8,9,10.

Hunnicutt, Jack D.: i,4,5,9.
Huntsville, Alabama: 3.

I

Indian Wars: 3,4.

M

Maryland: 1,9.
Memphis, Tennessee: i,4.
Milligan, Rachel: 5,8.
_____, Rebecca: 5.
Mississippi River: 3.
Mississippi Territory: 3.
Morgan County, Alabama: 2,3,4,5,10.
Morrow, David: 2.
_____, David J.: 5.
_____, "E. A." (Hannah Eliza): 8.
_____, Family emmigration to America: 9.
_____, Hannah Eliza: 2,5 - 6,8.
_____, Hannah Richardson: 2,5.
_____, Dr. J. T.: i,1,3,4,7,9.
_____, James M. Pendleton: 6,8.
_____, Jane P.: 2.
_____, Jane Peden Morton: 1,3,6,9.
_____, Martha E.: 3.
_____, Mary: 2.
_____, Mary: 2.
_____, Origins of family: 9.
_____, Rachel Milligan: 5,8.
_____, Rebecka Ann: 5.
_____, Robert: 1,2,3,4,9.
_____, Robert Richardson, Jr.: 6.
_____, Robert Richardson, Sr.: i,2,3,6,7.
_____, Samuel: 1,9.
_____, Samuel Alexander Pendleton: 5,8.
_____, Sarah: 2.
_____, Synthia Elizabeth: 5.
_____, Thomas: i,
 and American Revolution: 1,
 Birth: 1,
 Burial at Brushy Creek, Texas: 7,
 and Census of 1850: 5,
 and Census of 1860: 8,
 and Census of 1870: 8,
 Children of
 by Hannah Richardson: 2 - 3,
 by Rachel Milligan: 5,

Morrow, Thomas Continued next page

Morrow, Thomas, Continued:

Daughter Hannah Eliza family historian:
5 - 6,

Death

of children given with birth dates
when known: 2 - 3, 5.
of Rachel Milligan: 8.
of Thomas Morrow: 7 - 8
problem with date of: 7 - 8.
of parents: 4.
of Hannah Richardson: 5.

Education of: 2,

Father's will: 4,

Great - granddaughter Loia Alma Morrow
Henderson family historian: 6,

Home

in Alabama: 4,
in South Carolina: 1,
in Texas: 6,

Land Grants

in Alabama, 1817: 3,
in Mississippi Territory, 1805: 3,
in Texas, 1850: 6,

Migration

to Alabama, 1817: 3,
to Texas, 1850: 6,

Military records, lack of: 3,

Parents: 1

Property retained in South Carolina: 4,

Old age: 6 - 7,

Religion:

Conversion to Baptist faith: 6,
Originally Presbyterian: 2, 10,
Son, grandsons Baptist
ministers: 6,

Siblings

full, listed: 1 - 2.
half, mentioned: 1

Will: 8. ,

_____, William: 1,3,8.

_____, William Irwin: 6,7.

_____, William J.: 5,8.

Morton, Jane Peden: 1,3,6,9.

_____, John: 1.

N

Nashville, Tennessee: 3.

Neel, Mrs. J. F. (Elizabeth): i,8.

Northern Ireland: 9.

P

Palestine, Texas: i,8.
Perry, Josephine: i.
Pisgah Baptist Church
 at Brushy Creek, Texas: 7.
 Founder of (R. R. Morrow, Sr.): 7.
 Founding of (1854): 7.
Presbyterian faith: 2,6,9.

R

Reid, Jane: 3.
Richardson, Amos: 2.
_____, Hannah: 2,5.

S

San Angelo, Texas: i.
Scotland: 9.
Six Mile, Alabama: 4.
Somerville, Alabama: 4.
Southeast, Indian Wars of: 3.
South Carolina: 1,2,3,4.

T

Tallahassee, Florida: i.
Taylor, W. W.: 5.
Tennessee: i,3,4.
Test Act of 1704: 9.
Texas: i,6,7.

V

Virginia: 1,9.

W

War of 1812: 3.